

RemarksStatus and Disposition of Claims

This Amendment responds to the Final Office Action mailed October 13, 2009. In the Action, the Office considered claims 21 and 23-27, claims 1-20 and 28-35 having been withdrawn from consideration as directed to a non-elected invention. Applicants allow the withdrawn claims to remain pending, subject to possible rejoinder.

With the forgoing amendment, claim 21 has been amended to include even more preferred features of the invention. The amendment finds support throughout the specification, including the drawings, and specifically, for example, in paragraph [0066] on page 31 of the original specification. The amendment does not add new matter. Claims 21 and 23-27 remain pending and under consideration with this amendment.

Information Disclosure Statements

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement filed April 15, 2009.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Action maintains the rejection of claims 21 and 23-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Okuno et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,338,008). The Action maintains the rejection as previously applied, and with respect to the newly added element relating to the inclusion of a thermostat, asserts that Okuno et al. discloses a thermostat. In this regard, the Action asserts that Okuno et al.’s heating element 7, cooling device 10, rectifying plate 11, fan 16, and jacket 17 all comprise elements of a thermostat.

In response, Applicants note that claim 21 has been amended to recite preferred aspects of the present invention, including that the thermostat includes a system in which the cool air or hot air of the thermostat device does not directly come in contact with the solder composition on the substrate. Applicants respectfully submit that Okuno et al. fails to disclose or suggest such system. In fact, Applicants note that the system of Okuno et al. would appear to include features

that provide for heating or cooling by circulating gas over the substrate. Thus, if anything, Okuno et al. teaches away from this aspect of the presently claimed invention.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection for anticipation.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Action rejects claim 27 as allegedly obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Okuno et al. in view of Campbell et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,334,646).

In response, as noted above, claim 21, from which claim 27 depends, recites that the thermostat includes a system in which the cool air or hot air of the thermostat device does not directly come in contact with the solder composition on the substrate. Also as noted above, Okuno et al. requires circulating gas to heat or cool the substrate. Thus, any modification of Okuno et al. to include a system in which the cool air or hot air of the thermostat device does not directly come in contact with the solder composition on the substrate would change the fundamental basis for Okuno et al., and thus would be improper.

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, Okuno et al. cannot be combined with Campbell et al. to arrive at the presently claimed invention. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection for obviousness.

Summary and Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, it is submitted that the Examiner's rejections should be withdrawn. Entry and consideration of the present amendment, reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action, and allowance of the present application and all of the claims therein are respectfully requested are now believed to be appropriate.

If the Examiner has any questions or comments regarding this response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone

Respectfully Submitted,
Masaru SHIRAI et al.


Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29027 42,920

January 8, 2010
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191